

LUCHA LIBRE WEEKLY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1992

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 25

\$1.00 PER ISSUE/1427 WEST DICKENS AVENUE/CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614-3093

STRIKE (Again)

On Thursday, August 6th, 1992, Manny Guzman (real name Manuel Solano Vazquez), the secretary-general of the *Sindicato Nacional de Luchadores y Referis Profesionales de Mexico*, announced that his union was calling for a strike of its members against the promotion AAA (*Asestencia, Asesoria, y Administracion, S. A. de C. V.*), its president Antonio H. Pena, and its union's member wrestlers, referees, promoters, and arenas.

This was a big enough story in Mexico City that the leading circulation newspaper in all of Mexico, La Prensa, which has since its July 23rd, 1992 edition, essentially devoted its entire sports section daily strictly to coverage of the Olympics, covered the story with both the entire story and the headline in bold print in its sports section. All-sports daily Ovaciones, generally regarded as the most comprehensive and exhaustive in its coverage of lucha libre among all of Mexico's daily newspapers, led the lucha libre column with the story and also referred to it in its pictorial index on page three.

The story in Ovaciones was the more complete. It stated that Guzman had called the strike, but was willing to try to avoid it with negotiations between the two union's negotiators. One of the sides (I am not sure which) requested that the Mexican National Council of Arbitration designed to settle these matters (La Junta Nacional de Conciliacion y Arbitraje). They had meetings scheduled for Thursday, August 6th, 1992, and Friday, August 7th, 1992. The board said that it would take up the matter of arbitrating a settlement between the two sides, but nothing else was resolved at the meeting. Everyone agreed that the AAA could run functions for the weekend of August 7th-9th and 14th-16th, which had already been booked and promoted.

The SNL then stated that if no agreement were reached by August 19th, 1992, that they would call for a strike. El Justiciero, Antonio H. Pena, and lawyer Aguilar Amilpa from the AAA then left the meeting and said they would review their options.

Now, this is clearly the biggest story of the week, but unfortunately it just happened right before the deadline of the Friday newspapers. Here in Chicago, we get no other coverage of lucha libre after the Friday papers come in until after my mailing deadline for this issue - *except* for the Monday editions of La Prensa and Ovaciones. Those papers strictly cover only the results from the prior day and the Monday night cards. The upshot is, is that I will have no more news on this story until next week's issue. Four lucha aficionados from the left coast are in Mexico City until August 17th, and I should also have their reports as to what is going on in re the new strike before the mailing and cover date of the next issue, issue 26, Wednesday, August 19th, 1992, which ironically is strike deadline day.

This strike does not seem to be to me nearly so serious as the one that was held last year. I believe that a lot of the reasons behind this strike make it a "pre-emptive one." Based on what I have pieced together, it seems that the SNL, the EMLL, and the UWA have fears that the AAA is about to land a major Mexico City arena. What they are in effect saying is that if you are a promoter who promotes a AAA card or if you are an arena manager who runs a AAA event, that neither the SNL, the UWA, nor the EMLL will work any events in your building. This may help to dissuade those arena promoters and building managers in Mexico City area facilities from renting space to the AAA for an AAA function. This, in turn, would prevent the AAA from getting the foothold in the Mexico City market that the AAA wants so badly. Such a foothold might help drive another nail in the coffin of the UWA (which is the promotion, by far, most closely affiliated with the SNL and Manny Guzman). The UWA has already lost a ton of wrestlers, in many cases some of their best ones, in the last ninety days to the other two promotions. Losing a big arena or its remaining name wrestlers (like a Canek or a Dos Caras) to the AAA would be nearly a death blow.

One additional wrench in this scenario is the prospective jumping of Dos Caras from the UWA to the AAA (where he would join his brother el Sicodelico). Dos Caras is the "shop steward" for the ANL union in the UWA and wields a lot of power (and has a lot inside information about the inner workings of the union). If Dos Caras really did jump, and the Japanese magazines give a start date as early September, then that would also be a very serious blow to

EMLL

Here are the latest EMLL results that I have:

* The television taping held Friday, August 7th, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, saw in the main event Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense, el Rayo de Jalisco junior, and Atlantis lose two out of three falls to el Satanico, Emilio Charles junior, and Ulises Plus (who replaced the no-showing el Pirata Morgan). The story here was that Charles pinned Atlantis clean in the third fall for the second straight week (by reversing a *huracanada*). This was rated at ** 3/4. This sets up a *mascara contra caballera* main event next week between the two. The semifinal saw Cesar Dantes, el Hijo del Solitario, and el Gran Markus junior win two straight falls from el Brazo de Plata, el Brazo de Oro, and Aaron Grondy. The story here was two-fold. First, el Brazo de Plata was brought back from off of his weight- and health- mandated absence beginning with this match so that Aaron Grondy (Mike Shaw) could turn heel into Makhan Singh on the beloved Brazos. Also, Cesar Dantes (younger brother of Apolo, who is in a death feud with el Hijo del Solitario), who has been a rudo for about a month now, was teaming with the arch-enemy of his brother for the first time ever. Would Cesar Dantes favor more his brother or his fellow rudo? Grondy gave both Brazos the "Karachi Crunch" by mistake, causing the brothers to be pinned, for the finish of the second fall. Rated at ** 1/2. In the *tercera* Kung Fu, el Felino, and Javier "el Monarca" Cruz defeated Kato Kung Lee I, el Cachorro Mendoza, and la Mano Negra two falls to one. Fu pinned la Mano Negra to end the third fall and the match. Rated at ** 1/4. In the *segunda* which Enjambre, el Archangel de Muerte, and el Guerrero de la Muerte faced the debuting The Latin Lover, el Trueno, and el Metalico. The *inicial*, which was the television opener, saw el Escudero Rojo and el Halcon Negro junior defeat el Pegaso and el Guerrero Samurai II two falls to one. Both rudos made II submit to end the third fall. Rated at * 1/2. By the way, their television aired as per usual on channel 9, XEQ-TV, at 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm local time (=MDT), and on satellite that same time and again Sunday morning.

* The main event from the card held Tuesday, July 21st, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, saw el Hijo del Solitario, el Satanico, and Javier "el Monarca" Cruz win two out of three falls from Lizmark, el Hijo de Lizmark, and Apolo Dantes. The semifinal, and only other match result that I have, saw The Love Machine (Arthur James Barr), The Black Magic (Norman Smiley), and la Mascara Magica (Eduardo "Eddy" Guerrero Llanes) win two out of three falls from Gargola el Sultan, el Hijo del Gladiador, and el Supremo I.

Here are the latest EMLL cards for which I have no results:

* The traditional Monday night card held August 10th, 1992, at the "el Deportivo Olimpico" gymnasium in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, saw Oro team with Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense in the main event as they took on el Felino and el Satanico. The semifinal saw los Dinamicos I y II versus el Reyes Veloz I and el Escudero Rojo. The *tercera* had Rock and el Viento Negro versus el Tarasco I and el Rey Guerrero. The *segunda* had los Makara I y II versus el Coralillo and el Desafio. And, the *inicial* saw el Makara III and la Hacha Negra face el Nefasto and el Guerrero Mixteco.

* The traditional Saturday night card held on August 8th, 1992, at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico saw a main event featuring the tecnico trio of Atlantis, la Aguila Solitaria, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon facing the rudo trio of America (who may have turned heel), el Felino, and Jose "el Negro" Casas.

* The traditional EMLL Saturday night card at la Arena Puebla in Puebla, Puebla, Mexico, saw el Brazo, la Mano Negra, and el Brazo de Plata face los Nuevos Infernales (M. S. 1, el Satancio, and el Pirata Morgan).

* El Felino vacated his Mexican National Welterweight Championship since he won the CMLL World Welterweight Championship as well. On Sunday, August 9th, 1992, at la Pista Arena Revolucion, 17 wrestlers began with a battle royal the tournament to crown a new champion.

* Plata, Bronce, and The Black Magic met el Archangel de la Muerte, el Guerrero de la Muerte, and The Big Bang (ex-Jack Victory) in the main event of the card held Sunday, August 9th, 1992, at la Arena Naucalpan.

Here is the latest EMLL news that is not strictly card- or result-related:

* Aja Kong got a nice write-up in the Ovaciones newspaper of Thursday, August 6th, 1992, to explain to fans who she is before she debuts at la Arena Mexico on Friday, September 18th, 1992.

* Speaking of the 9/18 show, the EMLL is running a contest through its magazine ARENA to have a legit fan balloting for wrestler of the year, match of the year, and so on, with the winners to be announced at the 9/18/92 show. The time frame is from 9/7/91 to 9/17/92 (the period between the 58th and 59th anniversary EMLL shows).

* New mini-super-estrellas la Mascarita Magica and el Ultimo Dragoncito are also featured in Ovaciones, as is la Aguilita Solitaria. Three new EMLL minis set to debut are Orito, Platita, and Broncecito.

* A new wrestling movie opened on Thursday, August 6th, 1992 in Mexico City, called *Luchadores de las*

las Estrellas," or "Starfighters." The star of the movie is regular actress Gloria Trevi, who appeared at the big show at la Arena Mexico on Friday, July 17th, 1992, as her character in the movie, "La Rosa de las Estrellas." Top billing among the wrestlers was given, in order, to Nitron, el Volador, and el Misterioso. Other wrestlers, etc., who appeared were Roberto "el Guero" Rangel, Ponzona, el Satanico, el Pirata Morgan, M. S. 1, los Colosos (?), la Aguila Solitaria, The Blue Demon junior, la Mascarita Sagrada, el Espectrito (junior), Maria del Angel, la Coralillo, la Sirenita, la Diabolica del Caribe, Martha "la Aplandora" Villalobos, and Cynthia Moreno. The co-executive producers of the movie are listed in the credits as EMLL head Francisco "Paco" Alonso Lutherroth and AAA head Antonio H. Pena.

* The EMLL announced that when it returns to la Arena Mexico in September (9/4/92), P. N. News (Paul Neu) will debut for la Empresa.

* Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense (Ian Hotchkisson) will be loaned to the UWA for one day on Sunday, August 16th, 1992, because so many UWA stars (el Scorpio junior, Shu, el Guerrero, Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada, Canek, Mil Mascaras, Dos Caras, Rocky Santana, Akiyoshi, Takayama, Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada, and maybe another I am missing) will be in Japan that day.

* Speaking of Vampiro, the first meeting of his official fan club is scheduled for Thursday, August 13th, 1992, in Mexico City, and it has gotten a ton of good press in the newspapers.

* Several EMLL wrestlers were interviewed in this week's (7/30/92) Titanes del Ring. They were el Hijo del Gladiador, el Dandy (who is the "metroposter" in the 8/6/92 issue), la Mano Negra, el Bello Incognito, la Sirenita, and Ringuito Mendoza. The only two about whom I learned any new data were el Bello Incognito and Ringuito Mendoza. Incognito, who is a rudo weighing 84 kg (185.2 lbs.) debuted on April 24th, 1992. Ringuito Mendoza was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, on October 10th, 1972, as Francisco Ibarra Lopez. He was trained by Flash (real name Francisco Gaytan) and debuted in 1990. Ringuito weighs 65 kg (143.3 lbs.).

* One other thing I forgot to mention on the previous page. This week's television show showed the highlights from the main event from the traditional Tuesday night card held Tuesday, August 4th, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico. In that main event, Kung Fu, Gargola el Sultan, and Pierroth junior defeated Atlantis, Apolo Dantes, and The Blue Demon junior two falls to one. The first fall saw The Blue Demon junior pin Kung Fu with a suplex. The rudos came back, however, to take the next two falls, the third coming with the very surprising result of welterweight Kung Fu pinning NWA World Light Heavyweight Champion Apolo Dantes clean in the middle to end the fall and the match.

* In Super Luchas this week, the following EMLL wrestlers were interviewed: el Satanico (who said he lost his mask less than one year after his debut to The Black Killer, that he has won 16 championships, and has a 19-6 record in hair matches); AAA wrestler el Solar I and el Super Bolido (who said that after several years of training under el Carnicerito, he debuted in 1986 in el Molino, Mexico, Mexico).

* I also got late word of results from the EMLL show held Sunday, July 26th, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico. The main event saw Lizmark, Ringo Mendoza, and The Black Magic take two out of three falls from el Satanico, la Bestia Salvaje, and Javier "el Monarca" Cruz. The semifinal saw los Guerreros del Espacio (el Guerrero Maya, el Guerrero del Futuro, and Damina, el Guerrero) win two out of three falls from Kato Kung Lee I, Kato Kung Lee junior, and la Mano Negra. That's all I have from that card.

* I do have the results of the opening match from the television tapoing held Friday, July 24th, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico. It saw luchadoras Xochitl Hamada and la Sirenita defeat Neftali and la Diabolica del Caribe two falls to one. This match was highlighted by la Sirenita's once again defeating Neftali, whom she had also defeated twelve days earlier to win the Mexican National Ladies' Championship.

* Dona Virginia "Vicky" Aguilera, lucha libre's 92-year-old number one wrestling fan, is back in the hospital again, for general ill health. She did attend the huge show of Friday, July 17th, 1992, at la Arena Mexico (that Dave Meltzer reported drew a gate of over \$144,000 and which the Japanese magazines reported drew over 18,000 fans to a 17,100-person capacity arena).

* Super Luchas reports that in a six-man tag-team match held Thursday, July 23rd, 1992, at la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, the fans of Pierroth junior (Cuernavaca is Pierroth's hometown) were cheering more loudly for him in his brawls with Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense than they were cheering the vampire. And speaking of vampire, it was so odd to see el Pirata Morgan biting a cut and sucking blood out of a vampire during their 7/17/92 match.

* Late word from the AAA is that Octagon defeated The Blue Panther on Friday, July 24th, 1992, in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico, to retain his Mexican National Middleweight Championship. Also, Konnan "I'll copy everything that Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense does" el Barbaro has started his own fan club. It will be called "el Club Fans de Konnan" and will be run by two ladies in Mexico City, Distrito Federal.

AAA

First, to the results of the television taping held Friday, August 7th, 1992, at the "el Gimnasio Manuel Hidaigo" in Puebla, Puebla, Mexico. This show aired in Mexico City on Sunday, August 9th, 1992, and will air in the United States of America on the Galavision cable network from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm EDT on Sunday, August 16th, 1992. Thanks to the wonderful efforts of Lucha Libre Weekly correspondent David M. Scherer (of Seaville, New Jersey), who watched a screen filled with snow, I have the results. Thanks a thousand times over to Dave. Readers, skip to the next paragraph if you want to not know next week's TV results ahead of time. The opener saw el Giro, el Colorado, and el Halcon 73 win two out of three falls from The Rose, The Babe Sharon (another "gay" act who's had one Japan tour and is legendary in Guadalajara), and el Brazo de Platino. I was told to watch for the unusual ring entrance of The Babe Sharon and The Rose. The second match saw Katana (ex-Leon CHino), el Rey Misterio junior (ex-Colibri), and Kendo Star team up to lose in three falls to the rudo trio of Mister Condor, Psicosis (yea!), and el Picudo. Scherer rated this match at *** 1/4. At the end, Mister Condor ripped off el Rey Misterio junior's mask, and after the challenges, they set up a *mascara contra mascara* match, apparently for next week. The semifinal saw el Solar I, el Angel Azteca, and Super Muneco (Dave calls him Super Moon-yuk-oh) win two out of three falls from "The Death Trio" of la Parca, Karis la Momia, and el Espectro. This el Espectro is NOT one of the three "Espectro" gimmick guys working for the EMLL but is a brand new guy. This one is being billed as the actual son of the original "el Espectro," Antonio "Tono" Hernandez. Watch for the ring entrances here, too, as "The Death Trio" was brought out to the ring in a lights-out arena in coffins. The match was rated at ** 1/2. The main event saw a non-title victory of the Mexican National Trios Champions, los Hermanos Dinamita (Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Universo Dos Mil). They won two straight falls over el Sicodelico, el Hijo de Tinieblas (without Alushe), and Konnan el Barbaro. The finish of both falls saw el Sicodelico cause his team to lose. So for the third straight week, el Sicodelico teams with the babyfaces and then turns heel on them. This was so bad Dave Scherer went out and rode on *his* bicycle. He gave it 1/4 *, his lowest grade ever as a correspondent for any lucha libre television match.

Now on to cards for which I do not have results:

- * The main event of the card held Friday, August 7th, 1992, at el Auditorio "General Jose Maria Arteaga" in Queretaro, Queretaro, Mexico had el Hijo del Santo defending his WWA World Welterweight Championship (which he has held for several years now) versus el Espanto junior. El Espanto junior is the man who supposedly beat el Hijo del Santo for the UWA World Welterweight Championship, supposedly on Wednesday, May 12th, 1992, supposedly in Gomez Palacios, Durango (I doubt the match ever took place).

- * On Sunday, August 9th, 1992, the AAA promoted two big singles matches in the north of Mexico. At la Arena Coliseo de Monterrey in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, el Hijo del Santo met Jerry "el Puma" Estrada.

- * Also on Sunday, August 9th, 1992, but this time at la Arena Coliseo de Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, The Blue Panther faced el Solar I. Both of the singles matches were strictly *mano a mano*, with no masks, hairs, titles, or other stipulations.

- * The AAA also ran a card on Saturday night, August 8th, 1992, at la Arena Apatlaco in Iztapalapa, Mexico, Mexico. The main event saw Konnan el Barbaro, el Volador, and el Misterioso team up to face the rudo squadron of el Cobarde Segundo, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Universo Dos Mil.

- * The AAA also ran cards on Friday, August 7th, 1992, at la Arena del Hipodromo in Tijuana, Baja California Norte, Mexico and at el Auditorio Municipal in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico.

In news that is not specifically card- or result- related:

- * Custodia magazine in this week's issue (8/18/92) goes over some of the new AAA wrestlers like Psicosis and el Rey Misterio junior. It also castigates the EMLL and its heel referee "el Gato Montini" again.

- * Peligro magazine in this week's issue had a short profile on the musical career of Konnan el Barbaro.

- * El Fantasma is the subject of this week's *metroposter* in Titanes del Ring (the 7/30/92 issue).

- * AAA wrestler Konnan el Barbaro (Carlos Santiago Espada Moises) and WWA/FMW wrestler The Body Snatcher (Louis "Cutie Pie" "Louie" Spicoli) worked the WWF television tapings on Nashville, Tennessee and in Huntsville, Alabama, on Monday, August 10th, 1992, and on Tuesday, August 11th, 1992, respectively. Konnan worked as "Relampago," with a mask and costume that looks more like Transformer than any other costume I'd compare it to. It is no secret that AAA president Antonio H. Pena has been highly impressed with Spicoli in the past and wants to bring him in to the AAA full-time.

- * Their television aired one hour earlier this week, on Sunday morning on Mexico's Televisa's channel 4 (XEW-TV) from 9:50 am to 11:50 am local time (=MDT) and on satellite at the same time. Next week, with the Olympics no longer being held, it should return to its 11:00 am local (1:00 pm EDT) start time.

* By the way, on next week's Galavision television show, here came the results of their Cartometro popularity poll. The number one tecnico was el Solar I. The number one rudo was Psicosis (I). The top trio was los Hermanos Dinamita. The top pareja was Konnan el Barbaro and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo. And the lance of the week was not el Rey Misterio junior's missed moonsault but was el Volador's dive onto Tony Arce from their tag-team title change match from Tuesday, July 28th, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo de Monterrey in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

* That leads me into this week's television taping on Galavision from the AAA. I had covered some of these results last week. Here is my personal analysis of what happened. The card had been taped on Friday, July 31st, 1992, at the very same la Arena Coliseo de Monterrey at which they had had the tag-team title change three days before. The opener, on television at least, saw the tecnico team of el Volador, el Misterioso, and la Panterita del Ring win two out of three falls from the rudo squadron of Tony Arce, el Vulcano, and Jerry Estrada. The announcers made a big deal out of los Destructores's (Arce and el Vulcano) win of the parejas titles. The announcers also made a big deal out of the fact that local hero el Panterita del Ring was returning "home" triumphantly. Otherwise, I must say that these announcers, Arturo "Art" Rivera and Enrique Vermudes, are the two worst of the seven lucha libre announcers that Televisa employs, and are the worst by far! They are truly horrid these days. Back to the match, Panterita captained his team to a two falls to one victory over Estrada's team in a total elapsed time of 13:26. The first fall went 2:13 before el Volador pinned el Vulcano with *la quebradora* (the tilt-a-whirl backbreaker). The second fall went 7:13 before Estrada made Panterita submit to a standing neck stretcher. This submission hold was important because Jerry Estrada's midget namesake, Jerrito Estrada, would use it victoriously later in the card. The third fall went 4:00 before la Panterita del Ring pinned Jerrito Estrada cleanly in the middle of the ring with a small package (or was it an inside cradle) called in Mexico *la enredadera*. At one point, a tall fan almost got into a legit fight with el Volador. I thought this match was fine and gave it ***. It was the only match of this card that did not air in Mexico.

The next match saw Psicosis, Heavy Metal, and captain Mister Condor win two out of three falls from el Rey Misterio junior, Winners, and captain Super Calo. Psicosis, it turns out, is a Tijuana-based wrestler who used to wrestle in Los Angeles and Tijuana as "el Salvaje." There has been more than one "el Salvaje" in the Los Angeles area in the last fifteen years and this is the youngest of those ones. Heavy Metal, of course, is Erick Casas Ruiz, who used to wrestle as el Canelo Casas. And, el Rey Misterio junior used to wrestle in Tijuana as "Colibri." Lately, Psicosis has gotten a super push from the AAA and he's just been in twenty-two days. Clearly, Heavy Metal is not happy with this situation, as it was obvious that Psicosis and Heavy Metal did not see eye to eye all night long. There was, to me, quite a bit of latent jealousy between the two. Who is the best under-25 luchador in the world? Is it Casas? Is it Psicosis? I think Casas. It seemed to me like these guys took it that seriously. Anyway, the first fall went 10:24 before el Rey Misterio junior pinned Mister Condor with a sunset flip. The second fall went 3:53 before all three rudos combined to make Super Calo submit to an all-body-parts stretcher submission hold. The third fall went 6:03 before Mister Condor pinned Winners after a blind foul. So the match went to the rudos, two falls to one, in a total elapsed time of 20:17. I gave it ****. I also thought that the missed moonsault press outside of the ring by el Rey Misterio junior was better than el Volador's *quebrada* was in the first match.

The semifinal saw Jerrito Estrada defeat el Piratita Morgan two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 11:52 in a *caballera contra caballera* match. The result was a foregone conclusion when Piratita announced that this was his last match in the AAA before jumping back to the EMLL. And the story was Jerrito's return to a rudo/heel status, helped by his namesake, Jerry "el Puma" Estrada, who interfered frequently in front of heel referee el Tirantes (aka el Suspenders who now wears AAA-logo suspenders which have a cameo of Cien Caras's mask on them). This was all right, but all rudo. I gave it ** 1/4. Afterwards, Piratita got only a trim and a little off the top with his haircut, and not a full clipping.

Next we had the weekly *Cartometro del Ring*. This week, the top tecnico was Konnan el Barbaro. The number one rudo was the favorite rudo of a certain lucha libre newsletter writer from Hialeah, Florida, who shall remain nameless but whose initials are Carlos (*rapado*) Rey, that being el Indomito. The top pareja was The Rose/Psicosis, who to my knowledge have not had a single pareja match together yet. Top trio was los Hermanos Dinamita (Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Universo Dos Mil). The lance of the week was Thunderbird's over-the-corner-ring post Lyger flip dive. The *relevante* (story) of the week was the beginning of the heel turn of el Sicodelico.

Next they showed highlights of a minis' match from el Auditorio Municipal in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico, from Friday, July 3rd, 1992, where la Mascarita Sagrada, Octagoncito, and el Angelito Azteca won two out of three falls from el Piratita Morgan, el Picudito, and Jerrito Estrada. The finish of the third fall was a triple count out of the ring after big dives by the little tecnicos. It appeared okay, maybe ** 1/2, but I question putting this on *after* the hair bout.

The less said about the main event, the better, but the turn of el Sicodelico caused his team of himself, Konnan el Barbaro, and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo to lose two straight falls to Fishman, Cien Caras, and el Cobarde II in a total elapsed time of 10:06. Actually, did you know everybody in this match was over 40 except Konnan? **, just for the heat. Anyway, el Sicodelico is just so bad.. And now we have to watch it again next week. Wait, where's my bike?

The UWA held its traditional Sunday afternoon card at the "el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos" bullring in suburban Naucalpan, Mexico, Mexico, on Sunday, August 9th, 1992. The main event saw el Scorpio junior (Rafael Contreras) win a *mascara contra mascara* battle versus el Tortuguillo Karateka Primero Donatelo. The finish of the third fall saw Scorpio get Donatelo in a *cavernaria* and then somehow, though Donatelo escaped, Scorpio was able to roll him up for the pin. Donatelo unmasked as Victor Manuel Vargas, age 28, originally from the Distrito Federal, and better known in Mexico as Rocky Santana. I believe Santana is now headed to the AAA, as is Danny Boy, who used to be Tortuguillo Miguel Angel. The semifinal saw Shu, el Guerrero (who is the new UWA World Light Heavyweight Champion, as he beat el Villano III on Friday, August 7th, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl in Netzahualcoyotl, Mexico, Mexico), win again. He teamed with The Doctor Wagner junior and The Killer {managed by Andy Barrow} to defeat Dos Caras, Enrique Vera senior, and el Villano III. The *tercera* saw los Cowboys/Efectivos (el Texano and Silver King) team with Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada to defeat el Scorpio I, The Babe Face I, and el Loco Zandokan two falls to one. The *segunda* saw Sato and el Coloso defeat Kahos I and el Engendro. And, in the *inicial*, la Ola Lila (Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna, May Flowers, and Pimpinela Escarlata) defeat Lasser, la Flecha, and el Ojo de Tigre. All matches went three falls.

* The main event of the card held Sunday, August 9th, 1992, at the "el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos" bullring in Naucalpan, Mexico, Mexico, saw a *mascara contra mascara* battle in which el Scorpio junior (Rafael Contreras junior) defeated el Tortuguillo Karateka I Donatelo (Rocky Santana) two falls to one. Santana was one of the four of "los Tortuguillos Karatekas" in the UWA. They split up about three weeks ago when Danny Boy jumped from the UWA to the AAA (Danny Boy, I believe, had been el Tortuguillo Karateka III Miguel Angel). With the act split up, Santana could afford to lose his mask, and he did. The semifinal saw Dos Caras, Enrique Vera, and el Villano III win two out of three falls from The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow), The Doctor Wagner junior, and Shu, el Guerrero. The *tercera* saw The Babe Face I, el Scorpio I, and el Loco Zandokan defeat el Texano, Silver King, and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada two falls to one. The *segunda* saw Kahos I and el Engendro defeat Sato and el Coloso two falls to one. And the *inicial* saw la Ola Lila (Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna, May Flowers, and Pimpinela Escarlata) win two out of three falls from la Flecha, Lasser, and el Ojo de Tigre.

* I just missed my mailing deadline for getting these results in last week. From the card held Sunday, August 2nd, 1992, at el Toreo, the main event found Canek (the current UWA World Heavyweight Champion) win a non-title match over el Gigante Samoano Kokina two falls to one, the finish of the third fall seeing a clean pinfall victory by Canek with a *rana* (I). The semifinal saw Dos Caras, Enrique Vera senior, and el Villano III defeat The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow), el Bufalo Allen, and el Signo two falls to one (Barrow took a lot of bumps during this one). The *tercera* saw el Villano IV, el Villano V, and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada defeat The Babe Face I, The Black Power II, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro two falls to one when the rudos were disqualified in the third fall, in what was said to be a good match. The *segunda* saw a *revancha en superlibre* (return revenge) match, but for the second straight week the rudos ended up on top, as el Scorpio junior, el Bucanero junior, Kahos I, and Shu, el Guerrero won two out of three falls from el Ojo de Tigre, la Flecha, el Gran Apache I, and el Tortuguillo Karateka I Donatelo (who works in Japan as Rocky Santana). The finish of the third fall saw el Scorpio junior pin Donatelo (not cleanly), so Donatelo challenged el Scorpio junior to a mask match. That took place this past Sunday (8/9) at el Toreo. The *inicial* of the 8/2/92 card saw Sato (ex-Sakigake Gantetsu in Japan), el Celestial, and el Matematico I win two out of three falls from Casandro, Zeus, and el Lobo Rubio.

* One result from la Arena Netzahualcoyotl from July 24th, 1992, saw Dos Caras, Enrique Vera senior, and el Villano III defeat el Bufalo Allen, el Gigante Warrior, and Shu, el Guerrero two falls to one in the main event.

* One result from the card held Saturday, July 18th, 1992, at la Arena "la Aficion" in Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico. The main event saw Tinieblas I (accompanied by his "mascot" Alushe) and el Villano III win two out of three falls from Canek and el Signo, in a surprising result.

* Two results from the card of Friday, July 17th, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl. The main event saw The Can-Am Express I y II (better known to us as Dan Kroffatt and Doug Furnas) defeat los Cowboys (Silver King and el Texano) two falls to one to once again retain the UWA World Parejas Championships. The semifinal saw Dos Caras, Enrique Vera senior, and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada defeat Canek, The Doctor Wagner junior, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) two falls to one.

Now on to cards for which I do not have results:

* First, the UWA held its first television taping in three weeks last Friday night. Channel 13, Mexico City's Imevision channel, had pre-empted the UWA's Saturday afternoon time slot (2:30 pm to 4:00 pm local time = MDT) on July 25th, August 1st, and August 8th. For their return to Imevision for Saturday, August 15th, 1992, the UWA held a television taping on Friday, August 7th, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl. The main event was a UWA World Junior Heavyweight Championship title defense for champion el Villano III. His challenger was Shu, el Guerrero. The semifinal saw Dos Caras, el Villano IV, and el Villano V versus Canek, el Loco Zandokan, and The Doctor Wagner junior. The *tercera* saw The Black Power II and el Signo versus Sato and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada. Transformer and el Coloso met el Rudo and Casandro in the *segunda*. And in the *inicial*, Bat Blue and el Ninja Blanco faced the new duo of los Guerreros de la Noche.

* The card scheduled for Monday, August 10th, 1992, at la Arena Puebla in Puebla, Puebla, Mexico, the last city on earth where man still manufactures Volkswagen Beetles, had what may prove to be a truly historic main event. It saw Canek defend the UWA World Heavyweight Championship (likely for the last time) versus Dos Caras. On Saturday, August 15, 1992, at Kawasaki, Kanagawa, Japan, Canek (UWA World Heavyweight Champion) will meet Mil Mascaras (IWA and WWA World Heavyweight Champion) in a title unification match. Canek is widely reported to be heavily leaning towards jumping to the AAA and I personally expect Mil Mascaras to unify all titles here (which, now that I've said it, it won't happen). The match 8/10/92 at la Arena Puebla was set up by the result of the main event of the prior Monday night (8/3/92), where Dos Caras, Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada, and Enrique Vera senior won two straight falls from los Nuevos Asesinos del Ring (Canek, The Doctor Wagner junior, and The Killer {managed by Andy Barrow}) when Dos Caras pinned Canek clean in both falls. P. S., Canek does jobs, and gets pinned, but he NEVER EVER submits.

* The traditional Thursday night card held August 6th, 1992, at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, saw Silver King, el Villano III, and el Villano V versus The Doctor Wagner junior, The Black Power II, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro in the main event. The semifinal had el Coloso, el Tigre Canadiense, and el Villano IV versus el Engendro, el Scorpio I, and Shu, el Guerrero. The *segunda* saw Sato and el Celestial face los Guerreros del Aceros I y II (The Steel Warriors I and II) {managed by el Sacerdote Maldito}. The *inicial* had los Mohicanos I y II versus Bat Blue and el Rayo de Plata.

* The traditional Thursday night card held August 6th, 1992, at la Arena Toluca in Toluca, the capital city of the state of Mexico saw el Scorpio junior and el Loco Zandokan headline versus el Villano I and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada. The semifinal saw Lasser, el Gran Apache I, and Transformer face la Ola Lila (Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna, May Flowers, and Pimpinela Escarlata). The *segunda* saw Frayle Top and el Dragon Chino I versus Casandro and el Viento Negro. And, the *inicial* saw el Cosmos take on el Angel Negro.

* The traditional Saturday night card at la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, held this week on Saturday, August 8th, 1992, saw a main event featuring the tecnico trio of Silver King, el Texano, and el Villano III versus the rudo trio of el Scorpio junior, The Doctor Wagner junior, and Shu, el Guerrero.

* Kahos junior and el Capitan Furia face los Black Birds I y II in a *revancha en superlibre* in the main event of the card at la Arena Toluca on Sunday, August 9th, 1992.

* The rest of the card held Monday, August 10th, 1992, at la Arena Puebla (see main event results above) went as follows: The semifinal had las Panteras Rosas (los Villanos I, IV, and V) versus el Scorpio junior, The Black Power II, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro. The *segunda* had Pimpinela Escarlata and Shu, el Guerrero facing Sato and el Tigre Canadiense. And, the *inicial* saw Casandro and May Flowers facing Korak and el Coloso.

In news that is not strictly card- or result- related:

* El Scorpio I (Rafael Nunez Contreras) was interviewed in the July 30th, 1992, issue of Titanes del Ring. He said that he has been three times a world champion (twice WWA and once UWA). He debuted May 3rd, 1968, in San Antonio, Texas. He says he is 176 cm (5'9.3") tall and weighs 106 kg (233.7 lbs) which sounds about exactly right to me.

* David A. Meltzer's favorite *extranjero*, The Pegasus Kid, returns for his next UWA tour on Saturday, August 22nd, 1992, at la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. Christopher Michael Benoit is the reigning WWF World Light Heavyweight Champion.

* The Doctor Wagner junior has formally challenged el Villano V for el Villano V's UWA World Light Heavyweight (and not Junior Heavyweight) Championship.

* El Gigante Samoano Kokina gave his notice here as he is headed in full-time for the WWF.

* Though rumors persist, as of Monday, August 10th, 1992, the following wrestlers who have been recruited by the AAA are still with the UWA: The Doctor Wagner junior, Canek, Dos Caras, May Flowers, and Pimpinela Escarlata.

* Also, as expected, Abdullah The Butcher cancelled his UWA tour officially. As many of you know, Abdullah The Butcher had made one prior tour of Mexico. In 1982, he came in and teamed with (at the time) Mexico's most tubby native wrestler, Tamba, el Elefante Volador. Tamba then turned heel as "Abdullah Tamba," and gained his most fame in Japan and had the biggest run of his career during the Butcher's tour. I have no idea why Abdullah The Butcher cancelled the tour, but I would not generally be surprised to see him come in before too long.

* And, finally,

The rest of the card for Monday, May 10th, 1992, at la Arena Puebla in Puebla, Puebla, Mexico, for the UWA, saw Enrique Vera senior, el Texano, and Silver King meet The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow), Shu, el Guerrero, and el Loco Zandokan in the semifinal. The *tercera* saw Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada, Transformer, and el Tigre Canadiense (Mike Lozansky) face el Scorpio junior, el Engendro, and el Scorpio I. The *segunda* saw Sato, el Coloso, and el Ojo de Tigre face los Guerreros del Aceros I y II (The Steel Warriors I and 2) and Kahos I. And, in the *inicial*, Lasser, Bat Blue, and Aero Flash met el Bucanero junior, el Espanto IV, and el Espanto V.

MINI-BIOGRAPHY: VANDAL DRUMMOND

Vandal Drummond's real name is Kurt Brown. Kurt was born March 13, 1962, (god is he old, he's past 30 already, oops...) and debuted as Jimmy Cyclone on July 23rd, 1982, at 'el Gimnasio Azteca' in the Los Angeles suburb of Bell, California. He had a ten-minute draw in his opening bout with The Surgeon # 2. Kurt is part Scottish in heritage (which makes him the second most famous Scottish luchador, just behind Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense. Perhaps that British-Isles-blood explains the ring jacket that he wears into the ring. The jacket was given to him by one of his co-trainers in American-style wrestling, Irish Mickey Doyle. (P. S., Kurt's other trainer was Doctor Jerry Graham.) Kurt, when he started out, was sorta small, so he "gluttoned" his way up to a weight of 185 pounds before realizing that that was about his top limit. Oh, well, there went the idea of an American ring career. But what of lucha libre? Kurt had been one of the biggest gringo aficionados of lucha libre that was running in Los Angeles's Hadco Plaza as far back as 1981, but thought while training that the American scene was where it was it. Sadly, that's not where it's at for 185- and under- pounders. Kurt decided not to use the cheap and easy methods to gain wait but rather to refocus his idea on how to succeed with his natural gifts. Suffering a bit from withdrawal symptoms from a lack of activity, Kurt enrolled in a lucha-style training school run by Billy Anderson, which at that time was out of Gil's gym. Actually Billy's training class wasn't pure lucha, but local wrestler el CHacal Rivera gave classes in lucha libre at Gil's and Brown was invited to join in "the fun." It wasn't long, after training under Rivera, the Guatemalan luchador el Torito, and Gil's owner Giberto Arellano, before Kurt had been converted as they say, and soon thereafter Vandal Drummond was born. Drummond officially debuted on Sunday, August 4th, 1992, at a bar show for Antonio Alvarez's Jalisco Promotions on the Compton/Long Beach border. Kurt has progressed rapidly, as a Canelo Casas/Jerry Estrada-type rudo who does moves as well as kick and punch. He won the mask of the Gemini Kid in May in his only *combate de apuestas* to date. Officially, Kurt weighs 68 kg (150 lbs), 2 kg short of the lightweight/welterweight border, and he may yet cross into the heavier class soon. Kurt lists among his favorite luchadores of all time Sergio, el Hermoso, and el Bello Greco (and Raul Mata); with Kurt's plentiful *pelon* one might wonder...but no, Kurt is happily married and wants everyone to know his house is ~~not~~ for sale. As you can tell, I am having fun with this bio, for even though Kurt is a legitimate luchador, he is also a very close personal friend and one of the, if not the, greatest guys in the world. I wouldn't pretend to do a dry, impartial biography of Kurt; I couldn't. I feel I can grade him professionally but the personal life story I just wrote came out just the way I wanted it to. Oh yeah, Kurt (and Dan "The Shroud" Farren) puts out the only other lucha libre newsletter in the world - the original and far better one. It's called VIVA LA LUCHA, and is available by writing MASTERS OF THE RING/ VIVA LA LUCHA, Suite #212, 8707-D Lindley Avenue, Northridge, CA 91325. It's supposed to come out monthly on the 15th of each month and write to them for the current subscription price. The June 15th, 1992, issue, has Kurt putting into his own words what it's like to be a sheet writer/wrestler. Highly recommended. You can inquire about Jalisco promotions tapes (including the May 10th, 1992, mask/hair match with Drummond versus Gemini Kid) at that same address. Go for it!

FROM: LUCHA LIBRE WEEKLY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 25

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1992

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The EMLL held a tournament on Sunday, August 9th, 1992, at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, to crown a new Mexican National Welterweight Champion. That crown had been vacated by el Felino when he won the CMLL World Welterweight Championship. El Felino had won the title at la Pista Arena Revolucion on Sunday, July 5th, 1992, from Ciclon Ramirez. And who do you think made the finals of this tournament? Ciclon Ramirez. Here is how the tournament went. In the first round, eight matches were held. They were: 1) Ciclon Ramirez d. la Aguila Solitaria; 2) Talisman junior d. Kato Kung Lee junior; 3) el Pegaso d. Babe Richard; 4) el Cortado d. Ludwig Star; 5) el Fantasma de la Quebrada d. el Guerrero Samurai II; 6) Apolo Chino d. el Mestizo; 7) el Solar II d. el Bello Incognito; and 8) el Gran Apache I d. el Vencedor. The quarterfinals had four matches: 1) Ciclon Ramirez d. Talisman junior; 2) el Cortado d. el pegaso; 3) el Fantasma de la Quebrada d. Apolo Chino; and 4) el Solar II d. el Gran Apache II. In the semifinals, 1) Ciclon Ramirez d. el Cortado; and 2) el Fantasma de la Quebrada d. el Solar II. All the tournament matches were one fall. This leaves el Fantasma de la Quebrada to face Ciclon Ramirez for the title on Sunday, August 16th, 1992, in the main event at la Pista Arena Revolucion. Two other matches were held. One saw Oro, The Blue Demon junior, and Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla defeat las Cavernicols I, II, y III (Popitekus, Cro Magnon, and Troglodita) two falls to one. The other saw el Rey David and Comdoin win two straight falls from el Reyes Veloz I and el Escudero Rojo.